

OREGON FINE FESCUE COMMISSION

1193 Royvonne Ave. S / Suite 11 / Salem, OR 97302 / 503-585-1157



OREGON GROWN FINE FESCUE

*Plant the Easy-Going,
Environmentally Friendly Fescues!*

**ORIGIN:
OREGON**

OREGON TALL FESCUE COMMISSION

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Conditions worthy of devotion.

Only courses that transcend the ordinary have an eternal allure. A course treated with Primo MAXX[®], the premier plant growth regulator, can create that appeal. Primo MAXX promotes thicker and stronger turf, providing the best in course conditions for the golfer. It also preconditions the turf for the stresses of the summer season and heavy use.

Superintendents find that their fairways are greener and require fewer mowings, saving fuel and maintenance costs—many think of it as “liquid labor.”

At Syngenta we understand why some golfers spend their entire lives—or maybe even longer—looking to play a course with pristine conditions.



Hole of the

▶ Hole No. 5 | The Ridge Club | Sandwich, Mass.



Month

Hole Stats

Distance: 397 yards

Par 4

The Turf

Green: Poa/Bentgrass Mix

Fairway: Penncross Creeping Bentgrass

As certified superintendent of The Ridge Club, Tom Colombo cares for the 6,657 yards of the privately owned championship course. Course architect Bob VonHagge incorporated distinct features to create a playing experience unlike any other in New England. With more than two decades of experience as a superintendent, Colombo enjoys the maintenance challenges associated with The Ridge Club.

The fifth hole greets visitors entering the gated community. Redesigned in 2004 to make a memorable first impression, the hole pleases the eye while challenging the players. The hole now requires a skilled second shot to avoid a water hazard fronting the green.



The Northeast has experienced an epidemic of anthracnose crown rot in recent years. This stress-related disease is especially damaging to annual bluegrass on putting green turf. By incorporating Insignia® fungicide into his preventive spray program, Colombo has been able to control the crown rot in addition to other troublesome diseases, such as fusarium patch, brown patch and summer patch.

Facing dollar spot-resistance issues with the repeated use of DMI-class fungicides, Colombo began using Emerald® fungicide three years ago to add a new class of chemistry to his rotation. Colombo now incorporates the Emerald First/Emerald Last strategy, which involves spraying fairways and tees at the beginning and end of the summer season.

"We're able to get 30 days plus control, and I don't have to apply another product at the end of the season; we're clean through the fall," says Colombo. "The length of control from Emerald has resulted in both money and labor savings for our course."

To see past Holes of the Month, download a desktop image and more, visit www.turffacts.com.

Emerald® fungicide offers superintendents a better standard for dollar spot control. For more information, contact your distributor or BASF at www.turffacts.com.



GOLFDOM'S HOLE OF THE MONTH IS FURNISHED BY:

BASF

The Chemical Company

In an age where starvation has been defined as “suffering effects of a food deficiency,” I figured we could join the politically correct conversations, not that I recommend it. For the sake of having a chuckle, I offer you the following conversions of plain turf talk into modern muddle.

Aerifying greens: Next week, our agronomic technicians will alter the subsurface stoloniferous and rhizomatic ecological zones beneath the putting greens to allow for the infiltration of aqueous solutions and the beneficial exchange of gases, primarily oxygen.

Verticutting: In September, our operational plans, in conjunction and synchronization with the golf competition events, include the removal of excessive biomass from the putting surfaces. This accumulated organic debris is causing deviations in putts struck on intended lines of play. Removal of this objectionable material will improve the traction of properly hit wedge shots and increase the probability of backspin, so adjust your target acquisitions appropriately.

Double cutting: Leaf blade removal on the greens will be increased 100 percent compared to current yields.

Topdressing: The light application of silica granules sized to meet and complement the U. S. Golf Association specifications for the porous substrate is scheduled to commence June 1 and will be repeated every 14 days unless prohibited by inclement weather. Applications of this material will serve to dilute organic debris in the soil profile and will even out any irregularities or unconformities in the putting surface.

Late to work: It has been noted that several employees are presenting symptoms of punctuality deficit disorder.

Syringing: Our irrigation technician periodically will apply water to the newly overseeded greens to maintain the proper moisture content in the spicules, cotyledons and juvenile *Poa trivialis* plants.

Fungicide application: An application of a pathogen-specific fungicide is required to diminish the population of spores and hypae of *Rhizoctonia solani* below levels lethal to turfgrass.

Mole cricket control: Monitoring of the current mole cricket life stages by drenching suspected

Say It Like It Is ... in the Textbooks

BY JOEL JACKSON



AGRONOMICALLY
CORRECT LANGUAGE
TO CONFOUND YOUR
MEMBERS AND
IMPRESS YOUR
GREENS COMMITTEE

areas with an aqueous solution with a basic (high pH) has indicated a preponderance of first juveniles. This is the best time to cause the cessation of development to the adult cycle when the insects cause severe eruptions of soil on the playing surfaces.

Fertilizer application: As a result of the conclusions of soil and leaf tissue tests on our turfgrasses, we will apply a custom-blended ratio of primary and secondary nutrients calculated to correct any deficiencies to maintain proper plant health and appearance.

Equipment manager: The superintendent has forwarded a proposal to the green committee to change the job title of mechanic to equipment manager, given that the new mowers cost more than a new Lexus SUV. We recommend the name change and a salary increase commensurate with the responsibilities therein.

Drainage: Excessive amounts of rainwater are causing unplayable conditions on several locales within the confines of the property. We will exercise a plan to divert, capture and sequester these objectionable water surpluses in areas more conducive to retention and subsurface percolation.

Height of cut: The elevation of cutting units on greens mowers will be adjusted the requisite thousandths of an inch to satisfy current status rankings between local courses. Fluctuations of this elevation may be required to prevent scalping on extreme contours.

Green speed: The distance in feet a golf ball rolls after being propelled by gravity from a position at rest on a V-shaped metal bar (Stimpmeter). The Stimpmeter, a device with no moving parts or calibrations, is raised slowly until gravity overcomes the moment of inertia of the golf ball.

Certified superintendent Joel Jackson is director of communications for the Florida GCSA.



Conditions worthy of devotion.

Golfers will go to extremes to play a round on high quality turf. Syngenta helps ensure courses have that appeal with new Instrata™ fungicide. With three active ingredients and both contact and systemic modes of action, Instrata provides broad-spectrum disease control, including dollar spot, anthracnose, brown patch, and snow mold. Like Headway™, Instrata can be crucial to combating the threat of disease resistance.

At Syngenta, we understand why golfers might want to play in the best conditions, even when they themselves are not. Beautiful courses should be played any chance you get.



My skeptical eyes and I recently toured a new “minimalist” design that was constructed artfully from tee to fringe. It seemed no detail was left behind. Cart paths were well-hidden, and each bunker was painstakingly conceived to look great and provide meaning to the holes.

And then there were the greens.

Now, I love an undulating putting surface as much as the next sadomasochist. But after about the fifth-consecutive roly-poly mess of contours, I began to wonder if there was ever going to be a change of pace.

Maybe a smaller green with one simple ridge? Or one with a bump, or perhaps a swale? Nope.

It turned out there were 18 of these overcooked greens on an otherwise beautifully conceived design. No variety, no letups, no long, slender flattish greens to offset the previous green's wild, wacky contours.

Just one ode to the St. Andrews Ladies' Putting Green after another.

The minimalist architect will respond that his greens are born out of the land, and a formulaic approach to his 18-hole vision would contradict the entire point of calling oneself a friend of nature. Unfortunately, this course was entirely manufactured, so that excuse was out.

And while that idea of land-based design might be true in some cases, the original minimalists — those MacKenzie, Tillinghast, Ross, Thomas and Flynn dudes — could respect nature while still building meaningful greens that offered a variety of looks, shot requirements and styles within an 18-hole design. And they could do that in a way the average observer might not notice that attention was paid to providing a distinct variety of green styles.

In other words, they figured out how each green fit their 18-hole vision, but you'd never know the architect had a checklist of green styles in mind.

The greatest greens in golf typically revolve around one or two key features that register in golfers' heads, allowing them to recall those elements as they stand in the fairway and

A Potpourri of Putting Greens

BY GEOFF SHACKELFORD



SOMETIMES YOU
HAVE TO TELL
NATURE THAT THE
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LEFT BEHIND

contemplate their options during repeat rounds. That's not a wholesale endorsement for the sadly overdone two-tier green, though I'm starting to warm to the idea of those pedantic double-level greens after seeing this contour smorgasbord set of greens.

Sometimes a big undulating mess of contours can be fun, assuming the putting surface is large enough to leave pinnable quadrants. But if you go back to the great greens in golf, they are generally midsize (about 5,000 square-feet) with one key feature around which all hole locations revolve.

Maybe it's a bump in the center that you know you can't miss right when the hole is cut left. Or when the pin is set to the right, you have to shape a tee shot to be on a certain side of the hole to best attack that location.

The ideal collection of 18 greens features several of these memorable surfaces to make the course a strategic joy. But the ideal assortment also throws in a few smaller, flattish greens, along with some bigger, more actively contoured fellas.

And no truly interesting design can hold its head in elite company without a green or two sloping away from the fairway, as long as it provides a well-conceived approach for the run-up shot. Variety is a good thing in green design. And sometimes you have to tell nature that the needs of golf supercede what the ground has left behind.

It must be remembered that golf is first and foremost an interesting contest between man and course. And to be interesting, a variety of greens will always charm the player into wanting to experience the design over and over again.

Contributing Editor and Author Geoff Shackelford can be reached at geoffshac@aol.com. Visit his Web site at geoffshackelford.com.

Don't Let *Poa* Spoil the View



"Our fairways are about 70% Poa annua, but there are remarkably few seedheads thanks to Embark Plant Growth Regulator," says Larry Emery, who has used the PGR for the past 12 years.

Larry Emery, GCs
Hidden Valley Country Club
Sandy, UT

Embark® Turf & Ornamental Growth Regulator provides reliable *Poa annua* seedhead suppression. Just a few ounces per acre applied prior to seedhead formation can provide season long control.

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HONOR THE



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Build a relationship with us and discover how our creative business solutions can